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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00136 050920Z

13
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PC-04

AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01

HEW-08 SCI-06 NIC-01 /119 W
---------- 117541
O P 041430Z MAR 74
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2528
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0136

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3.)

E.O. 11652: XGDS(1)
TAGS: PGOV, ET
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ASMARA 131

1. VICE GOVERNOR GENERAL TESFAIOHANNES BERHE TELEPHONED ME THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR ADDIS ABABA ON MARCH 5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS HE HAS RECEIVED.

2. I MENTIONED TO TESFAIOHANNES THAT THERE IS ONE PRIORITY ITEM OF BUSINESS IN WHICH I AM INTERESTED THAT I WOULD APPRECIATE HIS HELP IN COMPLETING. I SAID DR. WALSH OF PROJECT HOPE HAD SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH PREVIOUS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON FEB 14, AND THAT AGREEMENT REQUIRES CONCURRENCE OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. I EXPLAINED THIS CONCURRENCE HAD BEEN EXPECTED LAST WEEK BUT THAT WITH EMERGENCY EVENTS IT HAD NOT BEEN OBTAINED AS FAR AS I WAS AWARE. I SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF TESFAIOHANNES AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COULD ASSIST IN FACILITATING CONCURRENCE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. TESFAIOHANNES SAID HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PUSH THIS.
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3. INTERESTING AND WIDE-SPREAD RUMOR THROUGHOUT ASMARA REFLECTS POPULAR APPREHENSION OVER FUTURE OF LORD MAYOR, HAREGOT ABBAI. MAYOR'S SON SEYOUM, WHO HAD BEEN MINISTER OF STATE IN OFFICE OF PREVIOUS PRIME MINISTER, APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN APPOINTED TO ANY NEW JOB ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE. CURRENT RUMOR IN ASMARA INDICATES WIDE-SPREAD AND GENUINE POPULAR CONCERN OVER FUTURE OF MAYOR HIMSELF. MAYOR HAS DONE EXCELLENT JOB AND IS EXTREMELY POPULAR. RUMOR SUGGESTS THAT IF ANY EFFORT IS MADE TO REMOVE MAYOR HAREGOT, THERE WILL BE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS AGAINST THIS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REAL REASON TO SUSPECT MAYOR WILL BE REMOVED UNLESS HE IS SELECTED FOR MORE IMPORTANT POSITION. HE WOULD BE NATURAL CANDIDATE FOR CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE GOVGEN TO REPLACE TESFAIOHANNES, THOUGH HIS AGE MIGHT WORK AGAINST THIS.
RABIDA

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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